

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 30, 2002**

Members Present: Matthew Smith, Chairman; Per Bang-Jensen, Vice-Chairman; Harry Atherton; R. E. Moore; David Cabbage and Liz Cook.

Members Absent: Ann McCarty and Sam Poles

Resignations: John Pulsinelli

Guests Present: Supervisor Sharon McCamy; Robert Beckner; Marc Overman; Jon Whichard and Larry Ayers.

Staff Present: Fran Williams

Because a quorum was not present an official Committee meeting was not held. However, those who were present did discuss a number of issues.

1. Consider Abandonment of Old State Road 671 in Paris – Robert Beckner. (Item #5)

Robert Beckner briefed the Committee on his request to have a section of Route 671, which crosses a portion of his mother's property, abandoned. Mrs. Beatrice Beckner is the record owner of a tract of land comprised of approximately thirty-two (32) acres, situated in Fauquier County and a small portion which is in Loudoun County. This property was acquired by Mrs. Beckner and her late husband, Willard O. Beckner in 1963. At one time this road connected with Route 601 near Mount Weather in Loudoun County, but on September 3, 2002 the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors voted to abandon a section of Route 671 northeast of Mrs. Beckner's property, so now Route 671 does not connect to any other road. With Loudoun County's abandonment this road now only leads onto private property. Further, there have been continued problems over the years with unauthorized hunters, trespassers and vandals coming onto the property. Because of these factors Mr. Beckner and his mother are requesting that the portion of Route 671 in Fauquier County also be abandoned.

Harry Atherton stated that he will have this put on the Board of Supervisors' Consent Agenda in order to start the process of advertising, posting, etc. Mr. Atherton noted that if anyone objects a Public Hearing will need to be held.

Per Bang-Jensen asked how Mr. Timothy Shearer, an adjacent property owner, will get access to his property. Mr. Atherton stated that he would need to have a deeded easement.

2. Consider the Poplar Grove Sound Abatement Issue. (Item #6)

Jon Whichard discussed the County's recently adopted Noise Ordinance preventing trucks from using excessive braking. Mr. Whichard recommended the posting of signage at County lines as well as other advertising of the new regulations.

Bob Moore stated that he would pass the Noise Ordinance to VDOT staff to see what can be done as far as signage is concerned.

Sharon McCamy stated that some of the truck owners in her district have told her the \$2,500 fines have gotten their attention. The truck owners have recommended appropriate signage as a way of alerting drivers. Ms. McCamy stated that a number of truck owners will be attending a meeting next week with the County Attorney in order to discuss various issues involved in this matter.

Per Bang-Jensen stated that the noise problem in Poplar Grove not only affects the two residents present tonight, but the entire community. Mr. Bang-Jensen stated that another issue involves what Fauquier County does in the long term.

Bob Moore stated that VDOT agreed to collect data to see what the noise levels were when considering where to locate the weigh station, but no commitment was made about the installation of sound barriers.

Per Bang-Jensen stated that he has spoken with Joe Winkelmann, who suggested that consideration be given to lowering the speed limit from the Community College to Route 605 as another way of reducing the noise levels. Mr. Bang-Jensen stated that the Sheriff's Department will be strictly enforcing the speed limit in that area.

Mr. Moore stated that VDOT will conduct a speed limit study and report back to the Committee in 45 days with its recommendations on this as well as what signage is necessary.

Marc Overman stated that he has lived in Poplar Grove for the past eight (8) years. Mr. Overman welcomed the opportunity to work along with truckers and VDOT to determine the type of signage which should be installed.

3. *Discuss and Consider Making a Recommendation on the Lake Drive Options Related to the Development of the Brookside Community. (Item #9)*

Liz Cook stated that Supervisor Larry Weeks was unable to attend tonight's meeting and asked that this item be postponed until the next meeting.

Larry Ayers stated that 25 m.p.h. speed limit signs were installed this summer. However, as you enter from Riley Road only one (1) 25 m.p.h. speed limit sign was installed which is easy to miss. Mr. Ayers requested that another sign be installed at the crest of the hill.

Bob Moore stated that VDOT will take care of installing this additional sign.

4. *Discuss Asking Legislature to Reduce the Base Speed Limit on Fauquier County Roads from 55 Miles Per Hour to 45 Miles Per Hour. (Item #12)*

Harry Atherton stated that the Transportation Committee may need to be bypassed on this matter since the recommendations will need to be made by our next meeting.

Matthew Smith stated that he is not in favor of reducing the base speed limit to 45 miles per hour on all Fauquier County roads.

Sharon McCamy stated that this request has come about because of several accidents which have occurred on Courtney's Corner Road (Route 634). One accident involved two horses that were scared by a motorcycle speeding by, causing one horse to break its neck. Mrs. McCamy stated that the intent is to give VDOT more flexibility in lowering speed limits on various portions of roads instead of having to go through the long process they currently use.

Bob Moore stated that VDOT receives numerous requests to have speed limits lowered. Those who make these requests feel that motorists may not obey the 45 mph speed limit, but at least they would go 50 mph instead of 60 mph when the speed limit is 55 mph. Mr. Moore feels there is some merit to lowering the speed limit, but a traffic engineer may not feel that way.

Mr. Moore stated that the General Assembly could be asked to direct VDOT to conduct a study make a recommendation on whether this would be an effective tool in reducing accidents and improving safety on the roads.

Harry Atherton stated that he would be more than happy to recommend at the Board of Supervisors' level that the legislative delegation that they explore the possibility of lowering the speed limit or make it a County option to lower the secondary road speed limit.

5. *Receive an Update and Consider Making a Recommendation on the Secondary Road Improvement Budget for FY 2003-2004 and the FY 2003-2004 Six-Year Improvement Program and Primary Road Funding Priorities. (Item #7)*

Harry Atherton stated that this item has already been advertised. Dave Cubbage stated that the goal is to get this to Richmond in January.

6. *Other Items. (Item #14)*

Sharon McCamy stated that residents along a short portion of North Wales Road would like to re-name their road North Wales Lane in order to distinguish the private portion from the public road. Liz Cook will review the code to see if this will be possible.

Mrs. McCamy stated that a citizen has contacted VDOT to have speed bumps put in on Ridgedale Drive because of problems with teenagers racing on this street. Mrs. McCamy will put this information in writing.

Mrs. McCamy stated that ODEC's construction traffic, which will consist of approximately 240 heavy loads, could come through Luck Stone Quarry in order to avoid the railroad crossing. These trucks will be escorted by Luck Stone employees. No fuel tankers will come through Luck Stone's property because of insurance issues. Mrs. McCamy stated that a waiver will be necessary. ***Liz Cook stated that an amendment to Luck Stone's Special Exception will be needed.***

Liz Cook will schedule a combined November and December Committee meeting and notify the members.

Liz Cook will notify Betty Sue Anderson that there is no money available for rural road additions this year.

Liz Cook will check to see whose district Item #3(North Marigold Court) is in.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.